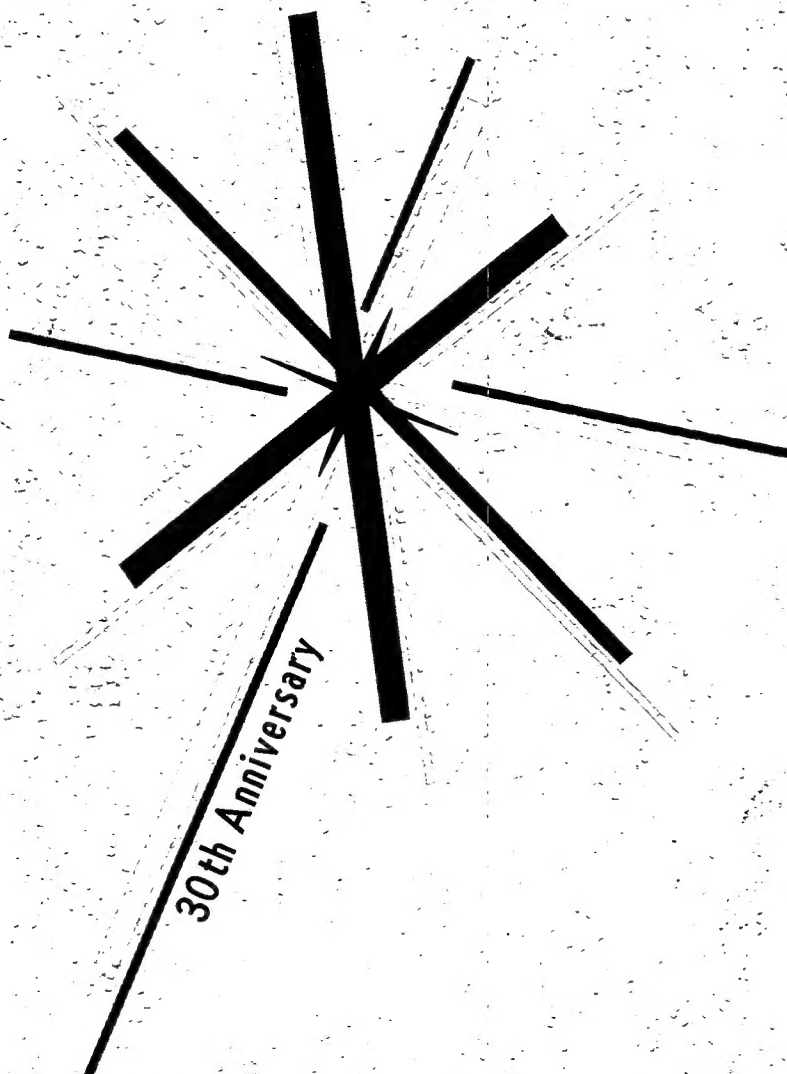


# FBIS

in retrospect



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
1941-1971

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

This commemorative volume, issued to mark the 30th anniversary of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, provides a retrospective view of FBIS. It makes no claim to comprehensiveness but is designed to recall illustrative historic items monitored from press and radio sources over the past three decades.



# FBIS *in retrospect*

30 years  
of the  
Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
1941-1971

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Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
P.O. Box 2604  
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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 9, 1971

STAT

[Redacted]

The thirtieth anniversary of the Foreign Broadcast Information Service is an important milestone for all of us who benefit from the many services you and the members of your staff provide. In an era when the United States must understand and often respond rapidly to world-wide developments, your timely and authoritative reporting, your searching analyses and your translation capabilities make an important contribution to the work of everyone associated with the complex field of foreign affairs. I am glad to have this opportunity to add my congratulations and best wishes to the many others you have received.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Nixon".

[Redacted]  
Director  
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

STAT

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## ITALY JOINS WAR ON UNITED STATES

FBIS was still in its formative stage when the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor plunged the United States into war. Only two monitoring stations were fully operative; the others were still ironing out communications and staffing problems. The demand for information from enemy sources was pressing. A fledgling FBIS responded. On 9 December 1941 its east coast monitoring station picked up Mussolini's announcement that Italy had joined Japan and Germany in war against the United States. The declaration was flashed to Washington ahead of the news agencies, and FBIS had registered the first of many achievements as the official U.S. Government monitoring service. In his speech from the balcony of the Palazzo Venezia, as broadcast by Rome radio's North American service, the Duce declared:

. . . Today the Italian flag is flying with those of Germany and Japan, symbolic of the pact of steel uniting the three countries. . . Neither the Axis nor Japan wanted the spread of the conflict. . . One man, and one man alone, an out-and-out despot, through an endless series of provocations, deceiving his own people, wanted the war and prepared for it day by day with diabolical perseverance. The formidable blows which have already been inflicted on the United States over the immense expanse of the Pacific are proof of the valor of the soldiers of the rising sun. . . I say, and you hear it: It is a privilege to fight with them. Today the Tripartite Alliance, proud of its moral and material means, has a powerful instrument for war. It is sure of victory. [Crowd roars] Tomorrow it will be the maker and the organizer of a just peace among peoples. . . Italian men and women, rise once more. Be worthy of this great hour. We shall win!



## HITLER ESCAPES ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

On 20 July 1944 a group of German officers attempted to assassinate Hitler by smuggling a bomb into a briefing session at his headquarters. The bomb killed several of those present, but Hitler escaped. Washington, reacting to German claims that the Fuehrer had survived the blast, urgently sought confirmation that he was still alive. This came later that day, when the German radio was heard to interrupt a scheduled newscast to announce that the Fuehrer was about to address the German nation. A very angry Hitler came on the air to say:

German men and women: I do not know how many times attempts on my life have been planned and carried out. If I address you today, I am doing so for two reasons: first, so that you shall hear my voice and know that I personally am unhurt and well; second, so that you shall hear details about a crime which has no equal in German history.

An extremely small clique of ambitious, unscrupulous, and at the same time foolish and criminally stupid, officers hatched a plot to remove me and, together with me, virtually exterminate the Staff of the German High Command.

A bomb which was placed by Colonel Graf von Stauffenberg exploded 2 meters from me on my right side. It wounded very seriously a number of my dear collaborators. One of them has died. I personally am entirely unhurt, apart from negligible grazes, bruises, and burns. . . . The assertion of these usurpers that I was no longer alive is disproved at this moment, as I am talking to you, my dear Volksgenossen. . . .





## GERMANY CAPITULATES TO ALLIES

Faced with defeat, Hitler took his life on 30 April 1945. German armies on the western front began surrendering on 4 May. On 7 May 1945 the German radio at Flensburg carried the following statement by Reichsminister Count Schwerin von Krosigk:

German men and women: The High Command of the Armed Forces today [7 May], at the order of Grand Admiral Doenitz, declared the unconditional surrender of all the fighting German troops. As the leading minister of the Reich Government whom the Admiral of the Fleet has appointed to wind up all military tasks, I turn at this tragic moment of our history to the German nation.

After a heroic fight of almost 6 years of incomparable hardness, Germany has succumbed to the overwhelming power of its enemies. To continue the war would only mean senseless bloodshed and futile disintegration. This government, which bears the responsibility for the future of the nation, has been compelled to act on the collapse of all physical and material forces and to request of the enemy a cessation of hostilities. It was the noblest task of the Admiral of the Fleet and of the government supporting him, after the terrible sacrifices which the war had demanded, to save, in this last phase of the war, the lives of the maximum number of his fellow countrymen. . . .



## JAPAN ACCEPTS SURRENDER TERMS

The first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945. At first Tokyo radio merely stated that "a small number of B-29's invaded the skies today over Hiroshima and dropped both incendiaries and explosives." The full magnitude of what had happened was revealed gradually to the Japanese people the next day, when the radio announced:

Yesterday, 6 August, the city of Hiroshima suffered considerable damage due to attacks by a small number of enemy B-29s. . . . The enemy used a new type of parachute bomb, which appears to explode in the air. With regard to its power, investigations are presently underway. However, we cannot be unconcerned. . . .

Since it is presumed that enemy planes will continue to use this new bomb, the authorities will point out measures to cope with it immediately. Until these measures are set forth, it is necessary for the people of the nation more than ever to strengthen the present air defense structure.

On the other hand, as has been said many times, even if the enemy does raid with a small number of planes we must be careful not to regard the raids lightly. Furthermore, the enemy has used this new type of bomb and is simultaneously propagandizing the might of the present bomb in a big way. . . .

The dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was followed by an ultimatum from the four Allied Powers demanding total capitulation. The Japanese cabinet, according to monitored reports from the Japanese DOMEI news agency, deliberated at great length before reaching "unanimous" agreement on 11 August on a formal reply. On 14 August the Japanese domestic service alerted the population that "an important announcement" would be forthcoming the next day. On 15 August, DOMEI, in an English-language transmission,

announced Japan's acceptance of the Allied surrender terms in a dispatch which stated:

The Japanese Government yesterday sent a communication to the Allied Powers formally accepting the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration. The communication was dispatched through the intermediary of the Swiss Government. The full text of the communication follows:

Communication of the Japanese Government of 14 August 1945, addressed to the governments of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and China.

With reference to the Japanese Government's note of 10 August regarding their acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration and the reply of the governments of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and China sent by American Secretary of State James Byrnes under the date of 11 August, the Japanese Government has the honor to communicate the following to the governments of the four powers:

1—His majesty the emperor has issued an imperial rescript regarding the Japanese acceptance of the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration.

2—His majesty the emperor is prepared to authorize and insure the signature of his majesty's government and the Imperial General Headquarters of the necessary terms for carrying out the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration.

His majesty is also prepared to issue his commands to all the military, naval, and air authorities of Japan and all the forces under their control wherever located to cease active operations, to surrender arms, and to issue such other orders as may be required by the supreme commander of the Allied Forces for the execution of the above-mentioned terms.



## COMMUNIST INVASION TRIGGERS KOREAN WAR

On 25 June 1950 North Korean forces invaded the Republic of Korea after claiming to have frustrated an invasion against areas north of the 38th parallel by troops of the Syngman Rhee "puppet government." In a long appeal "to all the Korean people" broadcast by Pyongyang Radio later that day, North Korean leader Kim Il-song placed all the blame for the fighting on the South Korean Government:

. . . Troops of the puppet government of country-selling traitor Syngman Rhee on June 25 invaded areas north of the 38th parallel along the entire breadth of the 38th parallel. The valiant Guard Corps of the Republic launched fierce battles in opposition to the enemy and frustrated the invasion of the troops of the Syngman Rhee puppet government.

The government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, having examined the situation thus created, ordered our people's armed forces to launch decisive counterattacks and to [mop up the enemy].

Under orders of the government of the Republic, the people's armed forces repulsed the enemy south of the 38th parallel and marched 10 to 15 kilometers south of the 38th parallel. The People's Armed Forces liberated many towns and cities, including Ongjin, Yonan, Kaesong, and Paekchon, and many villages.

With all our patriotic democratic might we have struggled to attain unification for the fatherland by peaceful means, but the Syngman Rhee country-selling traitor gang has now provoked an internecine civil war in opposition to the people. . . .

Opposing the peaceful unification of the fatherland, the Syngman Rhee traitor gang has long been preparing for an internecine civil war. . . . In a move to cover up its preparation for a civil war, the Syngman Rhee country-selling traitor gang has been incessantly provoking clashes along the 38th parallel, inflicting anxiety on the fatherland and people and attempting to shift to the authorities of our people's republic the responsibility for the provocative clashes.

Dear brothers and sisters: A great danger confronts our fatherland and people. What are we to do to eliminate the danger facing our fatherland? The Korean people must—in this war against the Syngman Rhee country-selling traitor gang—[defend] the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its constitution, mop up the antipopular fascist Syngman Rhee puppet regime which has been formed in the southern half, liberate the southern half of our fatherland from the rule of the Syngman Rhee traitor gang, restore in the southern half the people's committees which are true people's governments, and, under the banner of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, attain unification for the fatherland and found a powerful, democratic, independent Korea.

This war—which we are carrying out in opposition to the internecine civil war which the Syngman Rhee country-selling gang has touched off—is a righteous war for the cause of the unification, independence, freedom, and democracy of the fatherland.

Dear fellow countrymen, and I am addressing all the Korean people: If you do not want to once again become slaves to foreign imperialists, you must rise in unison in this country-saving struggle to throw over and smash the Syngman Rhee country-selling traitor gang. You must make all sacrifices and achieve unification for our fatherland. . . .

Our People's Armed Forces must demonstrate their valor, courage, and initiative in the struggle to defend to the death the democratic reforms in the northern half of the republic, to save our fellow countrymen in the southern half of the republic from reactionary rule, and to unify the fatherland under the banner of the people's republic. They must not spare their lives but must act with the utmost patriotic loyalty for the sake of the fatherland and the people and dedicate their last drop of blood to the unification of the fatherland. . . .

The people of the northern half must place all their business on a wartime footing and mobilize all their might and resources in order to mop up the enemy quickly and mercilessly. All business must be geared to the objectives of the war and to the mopping up of the enemy. . . .

Dear fellow countrymen, dear brothers and sisters:  
In order to quickly seize and eliminate the armed might and police state of the Syngman Rhee traitor gang, I call upon all the Korean people to rally more solidly than ever around the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Let us win our glorious victory, which will insure the unification and independence of the fatherland which we Koreans ardently desire!

The history of mankind teaches us that the people who have risen in unison, risking even death in the struggle for freedom and independence of their country, have always emerged triumphant. The struggle of our people is a righteous one. Victory inevitably will be with our people. I firmly believe that our righteous struggle for the fatherland and the people will inevitably end in victory.

The time has come now to unify our fatherland. Let us march forward valiantly with confidence in victory. Let us concentrate all our might on aiding our people's armed forces on the battlefronts. Let us concentrate all our might on mopping up and annihilating the enemy.

Long live the Korean people, who have risen in unison in the nationwide popular war of righteousness! Long live the Democratic People's Republic of Korea! Let us march forward to victory!



## MOSCOW ANNOUNCES DEATH OF STALIN

On 4 March 1953 a Soviet Government statement monitored from TASS announced: "A great misfortune has befallen our party, our people—the grave illness of Comrade J. V. Stalin." The TASS announcement, the first official word of Stalin's illness, was followed on 6 March by a party-government statement on the Soviet leader's death. As transmitted by TASS it stated in part:

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the USSR Council of Ministers, and the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Council announce with profound sorrow to the party and all workers of the Soviet Union that on 5 March at 2150 hours, after a grave illness, the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Josef Vissarionovich Stalin, died.

The heart of the comrade and inspired continuer of Lenin's will, the wise leader and teacher of the Communist Party and the Soviet people—Josef Vissarionovich Stalin—has stopped beating. Stalin's name is infinitely dear to our party, to the Soviet people, to the workers of the whole world. Together with Lenin, Comrade Stalin created the mighty party of communists, reared and forged that party. Together with Lenin, Comrade Stalin was the inspirer and leader of the Great October Socialist Revolution, founder of the world's first socialist state.

Continuing Lenin's immortal cause, Comrade Stalin led the Soviet people to a world-historic victory of socialism in our land. Comrade Stalin led our country to victory over fascism in the Second World War, which wrought a radical change in the entire international scene. Comrade Stalin armed the party and all the people with a great and lucid program of building communism in the USSR.

The death of Comrade Stalin, the man who devoted all his life to the unselfish service of the communist cause, is a tremendous loss to the party, to the workers of the Soviet Union and to the whole world. . . .

In these sorrowful days all the peoples of our country are rallying even closer to the great fraternal family under the tested leadership of the Communist Party, created and reared by Lenin and Stalin. The Soviet people have boundless faith in and are permeated with deep love for their Communist Party, for they know that the supreme law governing all the activity of the party is service in the interests of the people. . . .

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the USSR Council of Ministers, and the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Council, appealing in these sorrowful days to the party and the people, express their firm conviction that the party and all workers of our motherland will rally even closer around the Central Committee and the Soviet Government, will mobilize all their forces and creative energy in the great cause of guiding communism in our land.

The immortal name of Stalin will live forever in the hearts of the Soviet people and all progressive mankind. . . .





## DIEN BIEN PHU FALLS AFTER LONG SIEGE

The siege of Dien Bien Phu, considered by many to be the crucial battle of the French-Indochinese war, was launched on 14 March 1954 by 10,000 Vietminh troops. On 7 May, after 55 days of bitter fighting, the French fortress capitulated. The North Vietnamese News Agency, in claiming victory on 8 May 1954, stated:

At 1700 hours on 7 May our troops occupied the entire Muong Thanh sector, after which the enemies at various support points signalled their surrender by raising the white flag.

At about 1900 hours close to 2,000 enemies in Hong Kum, that is, in the southern subsector, tried to break the encirclement. Pursuit was undertaken. At 2200 hours all the enemy forces that had tried to flee had been put out of action. By 2200 hours on 7 May, weapons were silent over the entire Dien Bien Phu front. The spokesman of the high command officially declared: "Our troops have destroyed all the enemy forces based at Dien Bien Phu."

This morning, on 8 May, at 0800 hours the spokesman of the high command gave the official news: On the night of 6 May our troops launched a general attack against the defense system of Dien Bien Phu. After a night and day of extremely heroic struggle, our troops put out of combat on 7 May at 1700 hours the entire enemy garrison of the Muong Thanh subsector. At 2200 hours on the same day our troops [took the entire] enemy garrison of the southern subsector.

According to initial statistics, the number of enemy put out of action at Dien Bien Phu since the start of our attack amounts to 17 infantry battalions, including 7 paratroop battalions, 3 artillery units, and numerous engineer and motorized units. Fifty-seven enemy planes have been shot down or destroyed. The historic campaign at Dien Bien Phu has been a colossal success.

On 10 May the North Vietnam News Agency carried the following telegram of congratulations from Ho Chi Minh to the victorious troops:

Our Army has liberated Dien Bien Phu. I and the government affectionately extend congratulations to the cadres, fighters, people's laborers, [volunteer] youths, and local compatriots who so gloriously fulfilled their duties.

Though the victory was great, it is only the beginning. We should not become boastful, nor should we indulge in complacency or underestimate the enemy. We are determined to carry out the resistance to wrest back independence, unification, democracy, and peace. Be it in the military or diplomatic field, only through a long-drawn-out and arduous struggle can we attain complete victory. . . .



## SOVIET FORCES CRUSH HUNGARIAN UPRISING

The Hungarian uprising in 1956 exemplified the importance of radio monitoring as a source of news from a nation in upheaval and virtually cut off from the outside world. Dissatisfied with the repressive policies of their government and inspired by student demonstrations in neighboring Poland, Hungarian students began holding mass protest meetings on 20 October 1956. The students' demands—for the formation of a new government headed by the popular Imre Nagy, the ouster of party and government officials associated with past repression, and withdrawal of Soviet troops—were quickly taken up by the general population. Armed violence flared on 23 October, when police fired into a Budapest demonstration attended by 100,000 people. Within hours, the Budapest radio warned that "fascist reactionary elements" were attacking public buildings and the armed forces, and it announced that all meetings and demonstrations had been banned.

Early the next morning, it was heard carrying this announcement:

The Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic has ordered summary jurisdiction throughout the country to be applied against acts designed to overthrow the People's Republic—revolt, incitement, appeal and conspiracy to revolt, murder, manslaughter, arson, keeping of explosives and crimes committed by use of explosives, crimes committed indirectly, force applied against official authorities, force against private persons, and illicit possession of arms. Crimes falling into the categories of summary jurisdiction must be punished by death. This order is effective immediately.

Minutes later the radio supplied these details:

The dastardly armed attacks of counterrevolutionary gangs during the night have created an extremely serious situation. The bandits have penetrated into factories and public buildings and have murdered many civilians, members of the national defense forces, and fighters of the state security organs.

The government organs had not reckoned with the bloody dastardly attacks and therefore applied for help, in accordance with the terms of the Warsaw Treaty, to the Soviet formations stationed in Hungary. The Soviet formations, in compliance with the government's request, are taking part in the restoration of order.

The government is appealing to inhabitants of the capital to keep calm; it condemns the bloody havoc created by the counterrevolutionary gangs and supports everywhere the Hungarian and Soviet troops maintaining order. The liquidation of the counterrevolutionary gangs is the most sacred cause of every honest Hungarian worker, of the people and the fatherland. At this moment we are concentrating all our strength on that task.

As the fighting continued throughout the day, the radio alternated broadcasting offers of amnesty and warnings to those who persisted in fighting. Official pronouncements stressed that "opportunistic and reactionary" forces were utilizing the disorder to jeopardize the country's socialist achievements and appealed to the people to help restore conditions to normal. Bowing to popular demand, party officials named Imre Nagy to the premiership and installed Janos Kadar, an early advocate of Titoism, as party first secretary.

On 25 October Kadar and Nagy in a joint broadcast appealed for an end to the bloodshed and indicated that the people's demands for reform would be met. Kadar stated in part:

Hungarian workers, dear comrades: The Politburo of our party has entrusted to me the post of first secretary of the Central Committee in a grave and difficult situation. . . .

The grave situation in which we have become involved is characterized by the fact that various elements are mixed up in it. The demonstration march of a section of the youth, which started peacefully in accordance with the aims of the overwhelming majority of the participants, after a few hours, in accordance with the intentions of antidemocratic and counterrevolutionary elements who joined them, degenerated into an armed attack against the state power of the people's democracy.

In this grave situation a decision had to be made. In complete unanimity, the leadership of our party decided that the armed attack against the power of our People's Republic had to be repelled by every possible means. The power of the working people, the working class and the peasantry embodied in the People's Republic is sacred to us and must be sacred to anyone who does not wish to reimpose on the neck of our people the old yoke, the rule of the capitalists, bankers, and large estate owners.

This armed attack has wreaked bloodshed, destruction, and serious material damage and will continue to do so until, with the help of our entire working people, we put a definite end to it. . . . It is the firm resolve of the party leadership, after the earliest possible restoration of order, to face frankly and without vacillation all those burning questions whose solution cannot be postponed. We want to solve these tasks without delay by deepening the democratization of state, party, and social life, with regard for realistic possibilities.

Comrades, the Central Committee of the party proposes to the government that, after the restoration of order, the government should conduct talks with the Soviet Government in the spirit of complete equality between Hungary and the Soviet Union, fraternal cooperation, and internationalism, for the equitable and just settlement for both parties of the issues between the two socialist countries. . . .

Nagy, in the first of several speeches he was to broadcast to the nation in the next few days, said:

Working people of Hungary: During the past few days our country has lived through tragic events. . . . The new party leadership and government under my direction are resolved to draw the lessons of the tragic events to the maximum extent. Soon after restoration of order the National Assembly will meet. At that meeting I will submit an all-embracing and well-founded reform program.

This program will embrace all important problems of our national life. The implementation of this program demands the reshuffling of the government on the basis of the rallying of the revived People's

Patriotic Front and the broadest democratic national forces. The immediate cessation of fighting and the restoration of calm and order are absolutely indispensable for the realization of this program. . . .

As chairman of the Council of Ministers I hereby announce that the Hungarian Government is initiating negotiations on relations between the Hungarian People's Republic and the Soviet Union, among other things, on the withdrawal of Soviet forces stationed in Hungary on the basis of Hungarian-Soviet friendship and proletarian internationalism and of equality between communist parties and socialist countries and national independence.

I am convinced that Hungarian-Soviet relations built on that basis will provide a solid foundation for a sincere and true friendship between our peoples, for our national progress, and for our socialist future. The ordering back of those Soviet troops whose intervention in the fighting has been made necessary by the vital interest of our socialist order will take place without delay after the restoration of peace and order. . . .

Despite the appeals of Kadar and Nagy, the fighting continued to spread throughout Hungary. On 28 October, in another broadcast, Nagy reiterated his call for public support and aligned his government with the cause of the people. He announced a general amnesty for all rebels, replacement of the security police with a new security force, and plans for Soviet withdrawal from Budapest. On 31 October, following a 30 October announcement that the "reorganization of the party" had begun, Nagy informed the country:

. . . In the interest of the further democratization of the country's life, the cabinet abolishes the one-party system and places the country's government on the basis of democratic cooperation between the coalition parties, reborn in 1945. In accordance with this it sets up a smaller cabinet within the national government. The members of this cabinet are Imre Nagy, Zoltan Tildy, Bela Kovacs, Ferenc Erdei, Janos Kadar, Geza Losonczy, and a person to be nominated by the Social Democratic Party. The government will submit a

proposal to the Presidential Council of the People's Republic to appoint Janos Kadar and Geza Losonczy as ministers of state. . . .

The Soviet army began mass evacuation of its troops from Budapest on 30 October amid conflicting reports that other Soviet forces were pouring into the country from Rumania. On 1 November Budapest radio was monitored broadcasting the following news:

Imre Nagy, chairman of the Council of Ministers and in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, today summoned Mr. Andropov, USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. Nagy told him the Hungarian Government had received authoritative information about the entry into Hungarian territory of new Soviet military formations. He demanded that these Soviet military formations be withdrawn at once.

He informed the Soviet ambassador of Hungary's withdrawal from the Warsaw Treaty and at the same time declared Hungary's neutrality. The Hungarian Government, he said, is turning to the United Nations and seeks the help of the four great powers to safeguard its neutrality. The Soviet ambassador acknowledged the communication from the Hungarian premier and foreign minister and promised to ask his government to give an immediate reply.

On 4 November Soviet military forces, after pretending to yield to Hungarian pressure to withdraw, launched a massive armored invasion of Hungary. A stunned Nagy came on the air to say:

This is Imre Nagy, the premier, speaking. In the early hours of this morning Soviet troops launched an attack on our capital city with the obvious intention of overthrowing the lawful democratic Hungarian Government. Our troops are fighting. The government is in its place. I hereby inform the people of the country and world public opinion of this.

Only minutes before the Nagy announcement of the Soviet invasion, Ferenc Munnich, a member of the Nagy government, utilizing a transmitter normally reserved for the Hungarian radio's foreign-language broadcasts, announced that he, Janos

Kadar, and several other "former members of the Imre Nagy government" were severing all relations with that government to form "the Hungarian Revolutionary Worker-Peasant Government." Munnich explained that their action stemmed from the Nagy government's inability to control the "ever-growing strength of the counterrevolutionary threat" to the country's socialist achievements.

On 5 November the Soviet command, after occupying Budapest radio facilities, issued the following statement to the Hungarian population:

We have taken action at the request of the Revolutionary Worker-Peasant Government. That government informed us that forces of capitalist reaction were engaged in committing abuses in Hungary, that they wanted to restore the power of large landowners and capitalists, and that they wanted to deprive the workers of their achievements and the peasants of their land. Fascism appeared as a real danger.

The government told us that Imre Nagy's government did not want to fight against reaction, and this enabled the counterrevolutionary gangs which had gained ground to murder workers and patriots, to ravage and to plunder. The government of Imre Nagy had disintegrated and did not actually exist. There was total confusion in the country, and antipopular forces were committing abuses with impunity.

In this situation the Hungarian Revolutionary Worker-Peasant Government requested the command of the Soviet forces in Hungary to lend a helping hand in the liquidation of counterrevolutionary forces and in the restoration of order, internal peace, and calm. The command of the Soviet forces and we Soviet soldiers and officers are ready to extend this help to our Hungarian brethren. . . .

Within a week Soviet forces had crushed the revolt and installed Janos Kadar as the head of a Soviet-sponsored government. Nagy, after a period of asylum in the Yugoslav Embassy, was seized by the Soviet authorities and secretly executed.



## NASIR NATIONALIZES SUEZ CANAL

In mid-July 1956 the United States and Great Britain announced that they were canceling large grants to Egypt for construction of the Aswan Dam. A few days later the World Bank followed suit and withdrew an even larger loan. Egyptian President Nasir reacted on 26 July by nationalizing the Suez Canal, asserting that the revenues would be used to finance the Aswan Dam. Speaking at a public rally marking the fourth anniversary of the overthrow of King Farouk, Nasir said over Cairo radio:

Compatriots: When we look toward the future we feel that our battles have not ended. It is not easy for us to build ourselves up in the face of ambition—wide international ambition—international exploitation, and international plots. It is not at all easy to build ourselves and our homeland, to achieve our political and economic independence. We have long battles before us, brethren, and during these we shall struggle to live in freedom and with dignity and grandeur.

Today we are not repeating the past. Today we are doing away with what has passed. Today we are building our country as a strong, sound, new structure. At the same time, when we look back we do so to do away with the effects of the past—the effects of the hateful past, which brought domination over us, the effects of the hateful past which was the work of the deceptive and misleading imperialists. . . . We shall eliminate the past by regaining our rights to the Suez Canal. [Applause] This money is ours and this canal belongs to Egypt, because it is an Egyptian company with limited liability. [Applause]

The Suez Canal was dug by the efforts of the sons of Egypt. One hundred twenty thousand Egyptians died in the process. The Suez Canal Company, sitting in Paris, is a usurping company. It usurped our concessions. . . .

We shall build the High Dam and we shall regain our usurped right. [Applause] We shall build the High Dam. We are determined. Thirty-five million pounds annually is taken in by the Canal Company. Why not take it ourselves? [Applause] One

hundred million dollars annually is collected by the Suez Canal Company for the benefit of Egypt. We want this to hold good and the 100 million dollars to be collected by us for the benefit of Egypt.

Thus, today, when we build the High Dam we shall also build a dam of dignity, freedom, and grandeur. We are eliminating the dams of humiliation and servility. . . . Therefore, I have signed today, and the government has approved, the following resolution . . . for the nationalization of the world company of the Suez Canal. [Prolonged applause]. . . . The World Maritime Company of the Suez Canal will be nationalized as an Egyptian joint stock company. [Prolonged applause] All property and rights pertaining thereto, as well as the commitments, will be transferred to the state. [Prolonged applause] All the organizations and committees currently administering it will be dissolved. The shareholders and holders of founder shares will be compensated for the stock they own at the assessed value in accordance with the last quotation at the Paris stock exchange as of the date this law comes into effect. This compensation will be paid after the state takes over all the funds and property of the nationalized company. [Prolonged applause]. . . .



## USSR ORBITS SPUTNIK, MANNED CRAFT

In 1957 the Soviet Union startled the world by launching the first artificial earth satellite. An announcement by the Soviet news agency TASS on 4 October 1957 stated:

. . . As a result of intense large-scale research conducted by Soviet research institutes and designing organizations, the world's first artificial earth satellite has been developed in the Soviet Union. On 4 October 1957 the first satellite was successfully launched in the USSR.

According to preliminary data, the carrier rocket gave the satellite the required orbital speed of some 8,000 meters per second. At the present moment the satellite is looping the earth along an elliptical trajectory and can be observed in the light of the rising sun and setting sun through the simplest optical instruments, such as binoculars, telescopes, and so forth. . . . Reports on the subsequent movement of the first manmade satellite, launched in the USSR on 4 October, will be broadcast regularly by Soviet radio stations. . . .

Since the density of the rarefied upper layers of the atmosphere is not known for certain, no data are available at present for determining with precision the duration of the satellite's existence and the place where it will enter the dense layers of the atmosphere. It has been calculated that because of its tremendous speed the satellite will burn up on reaching the dense layers of the atmosphere at the height of several scores of kilometers. . . .

The successful launching of the first manmade satellite makes a tremendous contribution to the treasurehouse of world science and culture. The scientific experiment staged at such a great height is of great importance for fathoming the properties of cosmic space and for studying earth as part of our solar system. The Soviet Union proposes to send up several more artificial satellites during the International Geophysical Year. These will be bigger and heavier and will help to carry out an extensive

program of scientific research. Artificial earth satellites will pave the way for space travel, and it seems that the present generation will witness how the freed and conscious labor of the people of the new socialist society turns even the boldest of man's dreams into reality.

A little more than 3 years later, on 12 April 1961, the Soviets succeeded in launching the first manned space vehicle. The first public announcement of this breakthrough came when Moscow radio informed Soviet audiences:

Cosmonaut Gagarin has been launched successfully and is at present feeling well. Conditions in the cabin are functioning normally. The flight of the "Vostok" with Gagarin in orbit is continuing.

Minutes later TASS disseminated the news to the world in the following dispatch:

The world's first satellite spaceship "Vostok" with man on board was placed in a round-the-earth orbit in the Soviet Union 12 April. The pilot-space navigator of the satellite spaceship "Vostok" is a citizen of the USSR, Flight Maj Yuriy Alekseyevich Gagarin.

The launching of the multistage space rocket was successful, and after attaining the first escape velocity and the separation of the last stage of the carrier rocket the spaceship went into free flight on a round-the-earth orbit.

According to preliminary data, the period of the revolution of the satellite around the earth is 89.1 minutes. The minimum distance from the earth, at perigee, is 175 kilometers and the maximum, at apogee, is 302 kilometers; the angle of inclination of the orbit plane to the equator is 65 degrees 4 minutes.

The spaceship with the navigator weighs 4,725 kilograms, excluding the weight of the final stage of the carrier rocket.

Two-way radio communications have been established and are being maintained with space navigator Gagarin. The frequency of the shortwave transmitters on board are 9,019 megacycles and 20,006 megacycles and in the ultrashortwave range 143.625 megacycles. The condition of the navigator in

flight is being observed by means of radio telemetric and television systems.

Space navigator Gagarin satisfactorily withstood the placing of the satellite ship "Vostok" into orbit and at present feels well. The systems insuring the necessary vital conditions in the cabin of the satellite spaceship are functioning normally. The satellite spaceship "Vostok" with navigator Gagarin on board is continuing its flight in orbit.



## U-2 BLAMED FOR PARIS SUMMIT FAILURE

On 1 May 1960, a U.S. high-altitude reconnaissance plane was downed on a mission over the Soviet Union. The fate of the plane was not publicly known until 5 May, when Soviet Premier Khrushchev, in a report to a USSR Supreme Soviet meeting broadcast by Moscow radio, stated:

. . . On May Day, early in the morning, at 0536 Moscow time, an American aircraft crossed our frontier and continued its flight into the interior of our country. This aggressive act was immediately reported to the government by the minister of defense. A message from the government said: The aggressor knows what he is doing when he invades another's territory. If he remains unpunished he will launch new provocations. Therefore action should be taken and the aircraft shot down. This task was carried out and the aircraft was shot down! [Prolonged applause followed by a shout and further applause]

The first investigation revealed that the plane belonged to the United States even though it had no identification marks. The identification marks had been painted over. [Stormy applause] A commission of experts is studying the data in our possession. It has been established that the plane crossed the state frontier of the Soviet Union from Turkey, Iran, or Pakistan. . . . After studying all the data the Soviet Government will send a stern protest to the United States and will warn it that if such aggressive actions against our country continue we retain the right to reply to them with the necessary measures to guarantee the security of our country. [Long and loud applause]. . . .

The Soviet leader also observed that with the Paris summit conference literally around the corner, "to send planes to invade the confines of a foreign country is poor preparation for such a meeting." This theme was picked up in subsequent Moscow radio commentaries, which emphasized that reactionary U.S. forces were doing their best to poison the atmosphere for the upcoming summit meeting. On 16 May, TASS transmitted the

text of a statement by Premier Khrushchev announcing Soviet withdrawal from the summit conference. After noting that the United States intended to continue sending reconnaissance planes over Soviet territory and that this policy had been endorsed by the U.S. president, Khrushchev declared:

How can the Soviet Government take part in talks under conditions of the actual threat posed by the U.S. Government, which declared that it will also in the future continue its violations of the USSR frontiers and that American aircraft have flown and will fly over Soviet territory? By this the U.S. Government has declared its intention to continue its unheard-of and unprecedented actions against the sovereignty of the Soviet state, which is a sacred and immutable principle in international relations.

It follows from all this that for the success of the conference it is essential that the governments of all the states represented pursue an open and honest policy and solemnly declare that they will not commit any actions against one another which might represent a violation of the state sovereignty of powers. This means that if the U.S. Government is genuinely ready to cooperate with the governments of other powers in the interests of maintaining peace and strengthening confidence between the states it should, first, condemn the inadmissible provocative actions of the U.S. Air Force against the Soviet Union, and second, renounce the continuance of such actions and such a policy against the USSR in the future.

It is self-evident that the U.S. Government in that case cannot but make those immediately guilty of the premeditated violation of the USSR state frontiers by American aircraft answer severely for it. Until this is done by the U.S. Government, the Soviet Government does not see the possibility of fruitful talks with the U.S. Government at the summit conference. It cannot be a participant in talks at which one participant has made treachery the basis of his policy toward the Soviet Union. . . .

## CASTRO ESPOUSES MARXISM-LENINISM

Following Fidel Castro's decision in January 1961 to sever relations with the United States, there was considerable controversy regarding the political orientation the Cuban leader would adopt in charting his country's future. His long speeches, broadcast by Havana radio, were thought by many to provide insight into his thoughts and were therefore closely studied.

On 16 April 1961, Castro for the first time referred to the Cuban revolution as "socialist." During his 1961 May Day speech he announced that Cuba was entering into an "era of socialist construction" and spoke of the need for a "socialist constitution" to reflect the new system. But the speech that received most publicity came on 2 December 1961, when Castro declared in an address to university students:

. . . There was a time when I was a political illiterate because of my class origin. We became revolutionaries because we had that vocation and because of native honesty. I did not come here to give a biography, but every time I found a truth I clung to it. When I left the university, I was not a Marxist-Leninist, but I was basically influenced by their work. We are much more revolutionary now than when we came into power. I have read "Das Kapital" up to page [390] but I plan to read further.

Do I believe in Marxism? I believe absolutely in Marxism! [Long applause] Did I believe in it on 1 January? I believed in it on 1 January. Did I believe in it on 26 July? I believed in it on 26 July. Did I understand it as I understand it today, after almost 10 years of struggle? No, I did not understand it as I understand it today. There is a great difference between the way I understood it then and the way I understand it now. Did I have prejudices? Yes, I had prejudices! On 26 July? Yes. Could I call myself a mature revolutionary on 26 July? No, I couldn't call myself a mature revolutionary. I could call myself an almost mature revolutionary. Can I call myself a mature revolutionary today? This would mean that I was satisfied with what I was, and of course I am not satisfied.



Do I have doubts about Marxism? I understand that certain interpretations were incorrect, that it is necessary to make revisions. I do not have the slightest doubt. [Prolonged applause]

The more experience we have, the more we know about imperialism. The more we see it in action in South Vietnam, South Korea, etc., the more we feel Marxist, sentimentally and emotionally. When we see the class struggle, we see the truths of Marx and Engels. . . . The works of Marx opened the way. They surpassed the works of other socialists. He had blind faith in his conclusions. His works show the real value of a revolutionary doctrine. . . .

Socialism does not have to be the same in each nation. Each nation must adjust socialism to its needs. Socialist truths are proven and established, but immense sacrifices were necessary to translate theory into reality. . . . Imperialism is hunger, misery, colonialism, discrimination, lack of culture, and exploitation. Hundreds of millions are spent on arms. . . . Imperialism pursues a criminal policy in America, Asia, and Africa. Cuba must be next to the people of China, South Vietnam, Angola, and so on. There is no halfway position between capitalism and socialism. . . .

We had, in effect, to apply scientific socialism. That is why I began to tell you, with all candor, that we believe in Marxism, that we believe that it is the most correct, most scientific, the only true theory, the only true revolutionary theory. Yes, I state it here, with complete satisfaction [applause] and with full confidence: I am a Marxist-Leninist [pounds the table] and I shall be a Marxist-Leninist to the last day of my life. [Commotion and applause]. . . .



## USSR MISSILE PULLOUT ENDS CUBAN CRISIS

The worldwide tension created by the Soviet Union's covert installation of missiles in Cuba eased dramatically on 28 October 1962 with Moscow's announcement that the missiles were being withdrawn. The announcement was contained in a message from Premier Khrushchev to President Kennedy. The first news of the Soviet decision to reach the president was an FBIS account of the message broadcast by Radio Moscow. The key paragraphs of the Khrushchev offer, as supplied to the White House by the FBIS Wire Service, read:

Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1404 GMT on 28 October broadcasts a Khrushchev message to Kennedy. He declares: I received your message of 27 October and I am grateful for your appreciation of the responsibility you bear for world peace and security.

The Soviet Government has ordered the dismantling of bases and dispatch of the equipment to the USSR. A few days ago Havana was shelled, allegedly by Cuban emigres; yet someone must have armed them for this purpose. Even a British cargo ship was shelled. Cubans want to be the masters of their country. The threat of invasion has upset the Cuban people.

I wish to again state that the Soviet Government has offered Cuba only defensive weapons. I appreciate your assurance that the United States will not invade Cuba. Hence we have ordered our officers to stop building bases, to dismantle the equipment, and to send it back home. This can be done under U.N. supervision.

We must not allow the situation to deteriorate [but must] eliminate hotbeds of tension, and we must see to it that no other conflicts occur which might lead to a world nuclear war. . . .

The importance of the radio as a means of rapid and direct communication between the two leaders during the crisis was emphasized in the president's reply to Khrushchev, which began: "I am replying immediately to your message of 28 October, which was transmitted by radio, although I have not yet received the official text, because I attach tremendous significance to acting quickly with a view to solving the Cuban crisis."

## NGO DINH DIEM OVERTHROWN BY MILITARY

A group of South Vietnamese army generals opposed to the policies and attitudes of the Ngo Dinh Diem government launched a coup on 1 November 1963. Striking during the midday siesta, coup forces seized the radio station and other key locations in Saigon. Residents were informed that a new government supported by the army had been formed and were warned to stay off the streets. The radio also called on opposition troops to lay down arms. Although a late afternoon broadcast announced that the army was in control, resistance by members of the presidential palace guard continued through the night. Early the next morning, the radio announced:

The revolutionary forces have heroically entered and occupied the Gia Long Palace, the last stronghold of the Ngo family and the place where for a long time the seeds of dictatorship, rottenness, injustice, and cruelty were sown. Faced with the gallant spirit of the revolutionary forces, Ngo Dinh Diem's henchmen laid down their weapons and surrendered. [The marines] and the armored corps heroically entered and occupied the Gia Long Palace.

After wiping out the last resisting units, the revolutionary forces moved cautiously and called on the people inside the palace to surrender to avoid bloodshed. But Ngo Dinh Diem and his henchmen stubbornly refused to surrender. Therefore, the forces had to act vigorously—and they succeeded in occupying the entire Gia Long Palace.

Ngo Dinh Diem and his entourage surrendered unconditionally to the revolutionary forces at 0645 hours today. Ngo Dinh Diem and Ngo Dinh Nhu were taken in custody.

Four hours later the radio carried the following brief statement:

The Revolutionary Military Council respectfully informs compatriots that Ngo Dinh Diem and Ngo Dinh Nhu committed suicide this morning at 1045 hours after they had been encircled and arrested by the army.

## MOSCOW ANNOUNCES KHRUSHCHEV RETIREMENT

In October 1964 the reported removal of Khrushchev's photograph from Moscow decorations mounted to greet three returning cosmonauts signaled trouble in the Kremlin. Surprising a world grown accustomed to the ways of Communist Party leader Khrushchev, TASS on the 15th announced his retirement due to age and failing health:

Nikita Khrushchev has been released from the duties as first secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Leonid Brezhnev has been elected first secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Aleksey Kosygin has been appointed chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

It has been announced today that a plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee held on Wednesday, 14 October, considered Khrushchev's request to be relieved of his duties "in view of his advanced age and the deterioration of his health."

An official announcement about the plenum of the CPSU Central Committee which was made public reads:

"A plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee was held on 14 October. The plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee granted N. S. Khrushchev's request to be relieved of his duties as first secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, member of the Presidium of the CPSU Central Committee, and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers in view of his advanced age and the deterioration of his health. The plenum of the CPSU Central Committee elected L. I. Brezhnev as first secretary of the CPSU Central Committee."



## GHANAIAN ARMY TOPPLES KWAME NKRUMAH

Ghanaian President Kwame Nkrumah, considered one of the most politically secure of Africa's leaders, was overthrown by a military coup on 24 February 1966. At the time of his ouster, Nkrumah was en route to Hanoi, where he had planned to work for a Vietnam peace settlement. The army dissidents promptly took over the radio station and then moved to occupy other strategic buildings in the nation's capital, Accra. Colonel E. U. Kotoka, commander of the Second Brigade, made the following broadcast to the nation the morning of 25 February:

I have come to inform you that the military, in cooperation with the Ghana police, took over the government of Ghana today. The myths surrounding Kwame Nkrumah have been broken. Parliament is dissolved and Kwame Nkrumah is dismissed from office. All ministers also are dismissed. The Convention People's Party is herewith disbanded. It will be illegal for any person to belong to it. We appeal to you to be calm and cooperative. All persons in detention will be released in due course. Please stay by your radio and await further details.

Setting out their reasons for the overthrow several hours later, the coup leaders declared over Accra radio:

The Ghana armed forces, in cooperation with the police, felt it necessary to take over the reins of power and dismiss former President Kwame Nkrumah, the Presidential Commission, and all ministers, and to suspend the constitution and dissolve Parliament. This action has been necessitated by the political and economic situation in the country. The concentration of power in the hands of one man has led to the abuse of individual rights and liberty. Power has been exercised by the former president capriciously. The laws have been suspended to the advantage of his favorites, and he has been running the country as his own personal property.

The economic situation is in such a chaotic condition that unless something is done, the whole economic system will collapse. The country is on the brink of national bankruptcy. . . . All of us have suffered in one way or another from the gross economic mismanagement by the old government. We have all suffered from shortages of essential commodities. The present mounting unemployment has affected almost every family. Rising prices have reduced our real incomes. . . .

Three days ago a new budget was introduced. In fact, this budget only increases the economic burden and hardships of the population. What we need is a radical rethinking of our economic and financial policies. This will be done almost immediately, and we hope to be able to announce measures for curing our troubles within the next few days. The going will not be easy at first, but the future is definitely bright. Ghana should have been a much better country than it is now. With your cooperation we shall reverse the present trends. . . .

We shall honor all our international commitments and obligations. In particular, we shall retain our membership in the OAU, the United Nations, and the Commonwealth. However, we shall not tolerate any interference from any foreign country.

A National Liberation Council has been appointed to run the affairs of the country with effect from today. . . .



## CULTURAL REVOLUTION SWEEPS RED CHINA

Chinese Communist Party Chairman Mao Tse-tung, dissatisfied with the revolutionary outlook of many party and government officials, initiated a major political purge in 1966 that was to foster years of factional strife and social disruption. High-level officials were replaced for "antiparty activities" in the "cultural revolution" that swept the country. The aims of the "cultural revolution" were clarified on 8 August 1966, when a plenary session of the CCP Central Committee issued a 16-point "decision" defining the goals of the "great proletarian cultural revolution." The decision noted the possibility of a difficult and protracted struggle but insisted that such upheaval was necessary to purify the nation's revolutionary spirit and thereby insure its future. The first two points of the decision, as disseminated by the New China News Agency, explained the situation to the Chinese people:

### 1. The new stage of socialist revolution

The currently developing great proletarian cultural revolution is a great one touching the souls of the people and is a more thoroughgoing and extensive new stage of China's revolutionary development of socialism.

At the 10th plenary session of the Eighth CCP Central Committee, Chairman Mao said: To overthrow a state power, it is always necessary, first of all, to create public opinion and to do ideological work. The revolutionary class does it; so does the counterrevolutionary class. Practice has borne out that this proposition of Chairman Mao's is absolutely correct.

The bourgeoisie has been toppled, but it attempts to make use of the old ideology, old culture, old customs, and old habits of the exploiting classes to corrupt the masses and to win their hearts so as to achieve its restoration. The proletariat does just the contrary. It must take up and deal heavy blows against all the challenges of the bourgeoisie in the realm of ideology and make use of its own new ideology, new culture, new customs, and new habits to change the moral outlook of the whole society. At

present our aim is to topple those who are in power but who follow the capitalist road, to criticize the bourgeois reactionary "authorities" in the field of academics, to criticize the ideology of the bourgeoisie and all exploiting classes, to transform education, literature, and art, and the superstructure which is incompatible with the socialist economic base so as to consolidate and develop the socialist system.

## **2. The mainstream and zigzags**

The broad masses of workers, peasants, and soldiers and the broad masses of revolutionary intellectuals and cadres are the main forces of this great cultural revolution. A great number of revolutionary youths who are otherwise unknown to the public have become brave forerunners. They have courage as well as wisdom. They use big-character posters and hold vigorous debates to air their opinions freely and to resolutely expose, criticize, and attack the covert and overt bourgeois representatives. In such a great revolutionary movement it is inevitable that they may have certain shortcomings, but their main revolutionary direction is always correct. This is the mainstream of the great proletarian cultural revolution which is advancing in this main direction.

Since the cultural revolution is a form of revolution, it will inevitably meet with resistance. This resistance mainly comes from those who wormed their way into the party and rose to power but followed the capitalist road. It also comes from the habitual influences of the old society. At present this resistance remains strong and stubborn. However, the great proletarian cultural revolution is irresistible, because its situation is entirely favorable. A host of facts indicate that so long as the masses are boldly aroused, this resistance will soon be crushed.

Because this resistance is comparatively large, ups and downs in the struggle are expected. These may even occur many times. There is no harm in these ups and downs. They will help the proletariat and other laboring masses, particularly the young generation, steel themselves, gain experience and learn their lessons, and understand that the revolutionary path is rough and full of zigzags.



Several months after the start of the cultural revolution, FBIS radio behavior specialists noted that many provincial stations—in contrast to the normal broadcast pattern—had ceased to broadcast locally originated programs and were relaying Radio Peking material. Analysts studying this development concluded that regional station behavior provided an indication of which faction held the upper hand in the struggle for local supremacy. To accurately chart the frequent reversals in broadcast patterns—from solid relay of Radio Peking to local broadcasting and back again—FBIS instituted an extensive scanning operation to provide an up-to-date record of provincial transmitter patterns. On the basis of this data, supplemented by other information disseminated by Peking media, FBIS analysts wrote:

The record indicates that a provincial radio is likely to carry local newscasts when one faction—any faction—is in control or believes it is in control. Local newscasts have been broadcast consistently, for example, in those areas which early in 1967 set up provincial-level revolutionary committees approved by Peking: Heilungkiang, Kweichow, Shansi, Shantung, and Shanghai. On the other hand, Sinkiang, with Wang En-mao maintaining control against apparent rebel efforts to topple him, also sustained local broadcasting through the spring and summer, until the end of August. Tsinghai “conservatives” broadcast local propaganda during the first three weeks of March assailing the “18 August” group, which subsequently re seized the radio and proved itself to be the true leading Maoist organization in the province.

The converse, in regard to relay of Peking, is not so simply stated. Clearly, in periods of local crisis, when no faction is in control, provincial radios have halted local broadcasting and reverted to solid relay of Peking—Wuhan, last June, prior to Peking’s exposure of the “Wuhan incident,” and Chengtu, last spring, prior to Peking’s transfer of Chang Kuo-hua to Szechwan. But at other times and places, failure to broadcast local news cannot be taken as a reliable

indicator of local chaos. In Fukien and Ningsia, for example, it is probable that some organ, presumably the PLA, has been maintaining control, and that one measure to this end has been a flat prohibition against local broadcasting by any faction.

The importance of control of the radio station to any faction seeking provincial hegemony has been made manifest throughout the year, especially in proclamations that radios have been "seized" or "reseized." Sining radio explained last January that its delay in broadcasting reports of local support for the Shanghai movement was "because of obstructions put forth by a handful of persons in power in the Tsinghai provincial CCP committee . . . and the unwillingness of key responsible persons of this radio to broadcast them." The Tsingtao city radio in Shantung Province reported on 29 January that the PLA had prevented reactionaries from interfering with the broadcasting of rebel documents by Tsingtao radio, "which had been placed under military control."

The insight into the mechanics of the provincial radio shutdowns and the crucial importance of these transmitters in the leadership struggle was later substantiated when a year-old CCP Central Committee notice, contained in a Red Guard publication, became available in early 1968. The party directive decreed that "revolutionary masses" struggling against those in control of the radio stations must withdraw and conduct their struggles "away from the broadcasting stations." It further ordered that the local army command assume responsibility for such stations and insure that they "cease to edit and broadcast local programs and only rebroadcast the programs of Radio Peking."

Red Guard newspapers and wall posters, although not usually available until months or years after initial publication, nevertheless contained timeless information of a basic and unique nature. They frequently provided detailed accounts of behind-the-scene developments, including several unpublished speeches by Mao Tse-tung heretofore unavailable to the Western

world. In one such speech, as translated by FBIS, Mao was quoted as saying to a 24 October 1966 meeting of party functionaries:

... People must be allowed to make mistakes and make revolution as well. They are allowed to change. Let the Red Guards read "The True Story of Ah Q." This meeting is being handled better. At the last meeting we wanted to cram things in, but failed. We had no experience. At this meeting we have had 2 months' experience. Altogether we have less than 5 months' experience. In the 28 years of the democratic revolution, how many mistakes were made and how many people died? The socialist revolution has been going on for 17 years, but the cultural revolution has been going on for only 5 months. Experience can be gained only after at least 5 years.

Nobody had thought, and I had not expected, that a single big-character poster, a Red Guard, and one big exchange of revolutionary experiences would create such turmoil in various provinces and cities. The students have made some mistakes too, but it is mainly we lords and squires who made the mistakes. (He asked Li Hsien-nien: "How did your meeting go today?" Li replied: "The Finance and Economics Institute held a denunciation meeting. I wanted to make a self-examination, but they did not allow me to speak.") You had better go and make your self-examination tomorrow, or they might think you were eluding them. (Li said, "I have to leave the country tomorrow.") You can tell them that in the past it was San Niang who taught her son, but that now it is the son who is going to teach San Niang. I think you look exhausted. If they do not tell you to make self-examination, you should insist on doing it. When they denounce you, you should admit your mistake. The mess was caused by the Central Committee.

The Central Committee should be held responsible. The localities too should be held responsible. My own responsibility is the first and second fronts. Why divide it into the first and second fronts? First because [my] health is poor, and second because of the lesson of the Soviet Union. Malenkov was immature. He had not held power before Stalin's death. Every time he drank to [Stalin's] health he laid it on thick. So I

wanted to have their prestige established before I died, but I had not expected that things would turn out the other way.

Comrade T'ao Chu says that power has fallen to the hands of subordinates. But I deliberately let it fall that way. However, they have now set up independent kingdoms. There were many things about which they did not consult with me; for example, the land problem, the Tientsin speech, the cooperatives of Shansi, negation of investigation and study, and the acclamation of Wang Kuang-mei. These things should have been discussed by the Central Committee and decisions taken on them. Teng Hsiao-ping never consulted with me. He has never consulted with me about anything since 1949. In 1962 four vice premiers, Li Hsien-nien, T'an Chen-lin, Li Fu-ch'un, and Po I-po, suddenly went to Nanking to see me. Later they went to Tientsin. I forthwith gave them my approval, and the four went home. But Teng Hsiao-ping never came. . . .



## WAR BREAKS OUT IN MIDDLE EAST

Full-scale war broke out in the Middle East on 5 June 1967 when Egyptian and Israeli armed forces clashed in the Negeb Desert. The crisis situation began building with a series of border incidents early in the year. In late May, Egypt and other Arab states began massing troops along the Israeli frontiers, with Israel taking countermeasures. Tensions were further exacerbated when Egypt was able to implement a blockade of Israel's only southern seaport by forcing U.N. peace-keeping units to withdraw from the Strait of Tiran area. Washington's first notification that fighting was underway was an FBIS Wire bulletin reporting an Israeli radio announcement that Israeli forces had engaged an Egyptian armored force moving toward Israel. The magnitude of the action became apparent minutes later, when the Israeli radio carried the following situation reports:

A spokesman for the Israeli Defense Army has stated that fierce fighting started this morning between Egyptian planes and tanks, which began moving toward Israel, and the Israeli Defense Army forces which rushed to repel them.

Here is a report just received. The army spokesman announced that the Egyptians this morning opened an air and land attack. Egyptian armored forces moved at dawn toward the Negeb. Our forces went out to meet them and repel them.

Many Egyptian jet planes were seen on radar coming toward the country's shores. A similar attempt was made in the Negeb area. Israeli Air Force planes flew against the enemy planes. Air clashes developed and continue.

The first confirmation of the fighting from an Arab source came 50 minutes after the Israeli announcement, when Cairo radio informed the Egyptian nation:

Citizens: A military source has stated that Israel began its aggression at 0600 GMT hours today with air raids over Cairo and over all parts of the UAR. Our planes and antiaircraft guns have engaged them.

Two hours later Cairo radio's transmissions to the Arab world carried the following official communique:

At 0600 GMT the Israeli enemy launched a full-scale land and air attack against the United Arab Republic. In the air, Israeli aircraft carried out raids on a number of military airports in the Sinai area and the canal zone and on one of the military airfields near Cairo.

On land, the Israeli forces carried out numerous attacks on all fronts. An offensive is now underway on fronts along the Egyptian borders. Sharm ash-Shaykh is being raided from the air.

Beyond any doubt, Israel has started a full aggression in all sectors. Despite all attempts by the Israeli enemy to allege that the United Arab Republic started it, this fact is obvious from the pattern and development of events. . . .



## VIETNAM PEACE TALKS OPEN IN PARIS

On 3 April 1968 North Vietnam responded to President Johnson's 31 March speech announcing a limitation of U.S. air and naval attacks by issuing a government statement declaring its willingness to talk with the United States. The statement expressed readiness to appoint a representative "to contact the U.S. representative with a view to determining the unconditional cessation of bombing of North Vietnam so that talks may start." After more argument over the meeting site, the DRV Foreign Ministry on 3 May proposed that the talks start on 10 May in Paris. The statement, as transmitted by the North Vietnamese News Agency, said:

On 31 March 1968, U.S. President L. B. Johnson announced the limited bombing of North Vietnam and once again expressed a desire to enter into talks with the DRV.

On 3 April 1968, the DRV Government issued a statement making clear its stand and attitude on this subject and its readiness to appoint its representative to contact the U.S. representative. But due to the not serious attitude of the U.S. Government, the contacts which are to lead to talks between the two sides have not begun as yet. . . .

One month has elapsed since the DRV Government issued the above-mentioned statement. The preliminary contacts which are to lead to the talks between the two sides should have been held. But the U.S. Government has deliberately resorted to dilatory maneuvers.

In face of such a situation, the DRV Government is of the view that the formal talks between Hanoi and Washington should be held immediately. The DRV Government has decided to appoint Minister Xuan Thuy as its representative to enter formal talks with the U.S. Government's representative, to determine with the U.S. side the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing raids and all other acts of war against the DRV, and then hold talks on other problems of concern to the two sides.

The DRV Government welcomes the French Government's willingness to offer Paris as a site for the talks between the DRV and the United States, as stated by French Foreign Minister Couve de Murville on 18 April 1968. The DRV Government considers that Paris, like Phnom Penh and Warsaw, is a suitable place for the formal talks between the two sides. These formal talks will begin on 10 May 1968 or several days thereafter.

The U.S. Government must positively respond to the good will attitude of the DRV Government and stop all dilatory maneuvers so that the formal talks may start at an early date. . . .





## BLOC ARMIES END CZECH FREEDOM BID

Concerned over the liberal policies carried out by the government of Alexander Dubcek and the disquieting response they elicited abroad, the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, and the German Democratic Republic sent troops to invade Czechoslovakia on the night of 20 August 1968. The first news of the invasion came in the early hours of 21 August, when Prague radio reported:

In a short while the Czechoslovak radio will be broadcasting an extremely important news item. Stay at your receivers. Awaken all your fellow citizens. [Brief musical interlude]. . . . Yesterday troops of the Soviet Union, the GDR, the Polish People's Republic, and Hungary crossed the frontiers of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. All citizens are requested to maintain quiet and not to offer any resistance.

Immediately after the announcement, the radio broadcast the following statement by the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee:

To the entire people of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic: Yesterday, on 20 August around 2300, troops of the Soviet Union, the Polish People's Republic, the GDR, the Hungarian People's Republic, and the Bulgarian People's Republic crossed the frontiers of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. This took place without the knowledge of the president of the republic, the president of the National Assembly, the premier, or the first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee.

In the evening hours the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee held a session and discussed preparations for the 14th Czechoslovak Communist Party congress.

The Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee Presidium appeals to all citizens of our republic to maintain calm and not to offer resistance to the troops on the march. Therefore, our army,

security corps, and people's militia have not received a command to defend the country.

The Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee Presidium regards this act not only as contrary to the fundamental principles of relations between socialist states but as a denial of fundamental norms of international law. All leading functionaries of the state, the Communist Party, and the National Front: Remain at your posts as representatives of the people and organs to which you have been properly elected according to the laws and other norms valid in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Constitutional functionaries are immediately convening a session of the National Assembly of our republic, and the Presidium is at the same time convening a plenum of the Central Committee to discuss the situation.

The Czechoslovak people reacted with a widespread campaign of passive resistance. Despite the Soviet seizure of the Prague broadcasting facilities on 21 August, Prague radio employees resumed broadcasts later in the day from a secret location and continued on the air uninterruptedly by constantly switching frequencies. By 25 August clandestine radio stations were in operation throughout the country, while the Soviets, in an effort to portray Czech backing for the invasion, had established a puppet station—Radio Vltava. The authentic Czech stations warned their listeners about this station, remarking acidly that it was identifiable by the poor-quality Czech and Slovak spoken. On 28 August, FBIS analysts provided the following report on the role the radio played in the week's events:

The free Czechoslovak radio network that had been used throughout the occupation to inform the populace, publicize the continued functioning of legal government and party organs, and buttress the negotiating position of the Czechoslovak leaders in Moscow, was used following the leaders' return to air the speeches in which Dubcek and his associates sought to gain public acceptance of the Moscow compromise. The speeches and statements empha-

sized that the outcome was the best the Czechoslovak leaders could have achieved considering the "political reality" of the occupation. They stressed that it was only by the acceptance of Soviet troops for an unspecified period, curbs on the media, and possible other limitations on freedom that the present leadership was allowed to remain in power and avoid either a bloodbath or a more repressive regime. In various appeals and speeches, the leaders conveyed, circumspectly, the idea that they were playing for time. They sought, also carefully, to assure the people that they had not basically compromised the regime's liberal orientation and that everything possible would be done to sustain the democratization process.

The Czech radio was still broadcasting on 28 August, as on the 27th, on at least seven transmitters, using frequencies in all broadcasting bands. On the 28th the radio began identifying itself, when broadcasting from Czech studios, as the "legitimate transmitter of [name of studio]" and, when broadcasting from Slovak studios, as "the legitimate and still free transmitter of [name of studio]."

The Soviet-operated "Radio Vltava," first heard on the day of the invasion, was still broadcasting on the 28th on two mediumwave frequencies, carrying communiques and appeals to the military forces and the civilian population and rebroadcasting Soviet commentaries. Another pro-Soviet transmitter, "The Workers' Voice of the Republic," had been on the air since 26 August broadcasting similar material. Concurrently, Radio Moscow was on the air from 21 August with a nonstop program in both Czech and Slovak on an increased number of shortwave outlets plus a number of Czech transmitters preempted by the occupying forces.

The round-the-clock Moscow broadcasts to Czechoslovakia included large numbers of commentaries and Soviet press articles also carried in other broadcasts to both bloc and nonbloc audiences. Some Soviet press articles were broadcast only in Czech and Slovak, however, and station commentaries broadcast exclusively to the Czechoslovak audience included commentaries on traditional Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship, on support for the military action in

Poland, East Germany, Bulgaria, and Hungary, as well as among Soviet citizens, and on the urgency of "defending socialism" against hostile forces. These broadcasts also decried attempts by "anti-socialist forces" to "provoke" the Czech people against the occupying troops and on the "fraternal" task undertaken by the Soviet soldiers.



## FIGHTING ERUPTS ON SINO-SOVIET BORDER

The Sino-Soviet divergence, which began in the late 1950's as an ideological dispute over political strategy, bloc relations, and leadership of the international communist movement, developed into open hostility and finally into serious border clashes in 1969. Relations between the two countries seriously deteriorated under the impact of the Chinese cultural revolution, and the Sino-Soviet alliance—once hailed as the cornerstone of the socialist camp—became a thing of the past. Long-standing border tensions were seriously exacerbated in 1968 after the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia, with Chinese charges that Soviet troops were massing along China's borders and committing provocations. In March 1969 these tensions exploded in bloody firefights over a disputed island on the two countries' Ussuri River border. Both sides took the unprecedented step of publicizing the clashes in an exchange of diplomatic notes. The Soviet protest, as monitored from TASS, declared:

The Soviet Government states the following to the Government of the People's Republic of China:

The Chinese authorities staged an armed provocation on the Soviet-Chinese frontier in the area of the frontier point Nizhne-Mikhaylovka (Damanskiy Island) on the Ussuri River at 4 hours 10 minutes, Moscow time, on 2 March. A Chinese detachment crossed the Soviet state frontier and proceeded toward Damanskiy Island. The Chinese side, armed with machineguns and automatic weapons, suddenly opened fire on Soviet frontier guards protecting this area. The actions of the Chinese intruders were supported from an ambush by fire from the Chinese bank of the Ussuri River. Over 200 Chinese soldiers took part in this provocative attack on Soviet frontier guards. As a result of this gangster raid some Soviet frontier guards were killed or wounded.

The impudent armed incursion into Soviet territory was an organized provocation of the Chinese authorities and has the purpose of aggravating the situation on the Soviet-Chinese frontier.

The Soviet Government lodges a sharp protest with the Government of the People's Republic of China

against the dangerous provocative actions of the Chinese authorities on the Soviet-Chinese frontier.

The Soviet Government demands an immediate investigation and the strictest punishment of the persons responsible for the organization of the aforesaid provocation. It insists that immediate steps be taken which would preclude any violation of the Soviet-Chinese frontier.

The Soviet Government reserves the right to take resolute steps to cut short provocations on the Soviet-Chinese frontier and warns the Government of the People's Republic of China that the entire responsibility for possible consequences of the adventuristic policy designed to aggravate the situation on the frontiers between China and the Soviet Union rests with the Government of the People's Republic of China.

In relations with the Chinese people the Soviet Government is guided by sentiments of friendship, and it is going to continue this line in the future. But the reckless provocative actions of the Chinese authorities will be met on our side by a rebuff and will be resolutely cut short.

Moscow, 2 March 1969.

The Chinese version of the incident, as monitored from NCNA, stated:

On 2 March 1969 Soviet frontier guards intruded into the area of Chenpao Island, Heilungkiang Province, China, and killed and wounded many Chinese frontier guards by opening fire on them, thus creating an extremely grave incident of bloodshed. . . . The so-called "note of protest" from the Soviet Union is the fond trick of thief crying thief played by the Soviet revisionist renegade clique; it is the gangster logic of this clique which has taken over the mantle of Tsarist Russian imperialism and pushed the social imperialist policy of aggression. The Chinese Government sent a note of protest to the Soviet Government on 2 March 1969, exposing the true picture of how the Soviet frontier guards intruded into Chinese territory and carried out armed

provocations, thus creating the grave incident of bloodshed. The full text of the note follows:

Note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China to the Soviet Embassy in China; 2 March 1969:

On the morning of 2 March 1969 Soviet frontier guards intruded into the area of Chenpao Island, Heilungkiang Province, China, and killed and wounded many Chinese frontier guards by opening fire on them, thus creating an extremely grave border armed conflict. Against this, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China is instructed to lodge the strongest protest with the Soviet Government.

At 0917 hours on 2 March, large numbers of fully armed soldiers, together with four armored vehicles and cars sent out by the Soviet frontier authorities, flagrantly intruded into the area of Chenpao Island, which is indisputable Chinese territory, carried out blatant provocations against the Chinese frontier guards who were on normal patrol duty, and were the first to open cannon and gun fire, killing and wounding many Chinese frontier guards. The Chinese frontier guards were compelled to fight back in self-defense when they reached the end of their forbearance, after repeated warnings to the Soviet frontier guards had produced no effect.

This grave incident of bloodshed was entirely and solely created by the Soviet authorities, which have long been deliberately encroaching upon China's territory, carrying out armed provocations and creating ceaseless incidents of bloodshed.

The Chinese Government firmly demands that the Soviet Government punish the culprits of this incident and immediately stop its encroachment upon China's territory and its armed provocations, and reserves the right to demand compensation from the Soviet side for all the losses suffered by the Chinese side. The Chinese Government once again sternly warns the Soviet Government: China's sacred territory brooks no violation; if you should willfully cling to your reckless course and continue to provoke armed conflicts along the Sino-Soviet border, you will certainly receive resolute counterblows from the

Chinese people; and it is the Soviet Government that must bear full responsibility for all the grave consequences arising therefrom.





## HO CHI MINH DIES OF HEART ATTACK

The initial announcement that DRV leader Ho Chi Minh was seriously ill came on 3 September 1969, when the following Hanoi broadcast was heard in the early morning hours:

Here is a communique on President Ho Chi Minh's health: Over the past few weeks, President Ho Chi Minh has not been well. Our party and state have been concentrating all capabilities and means to care for him. A collective of professors and medical doctors have been attending him day and night. We hereby inform our compatriots of the President's condition. Hanoi, 4:00 a.m. 3 September 1969. The Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Shortly thereafter, the radio announced that Ho had taken a turn for the worse. The news that the DRV leader had died in mid-morning on 3 September was not made public until early on 4 September. At that time Hanoi radio was monitored saying that he had suffered a "sudden, very severe heart attack." The radio stated:

. . . The Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front feel boundless grief in informing our entire party and our entire Vietnamese people that Comrade Ho Chi Minh, president of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers Party and president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, passed away at 9:47 on 3 September 1969 after a sudden, very severe heart attack, at the age of 79.

All through President Ho Chi Minh's illness, the comrade leaders of our party and state had attended him day and night, and had entrusted a collective of qualified and well-equipped professors and doctors with seeking by all means to cure him. Everybody had

done his best, determined to cure the president at all costs, but due to his advanced age and serious ailment, President Ho Chi Minh has departed from us. . . .

In these days of grief, the Central Committee of the Vietnam Workers Party, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers, and the Presidium of the Vietnam Fatherland Front appeal to all our party, armed forces and people to translate sorrow into revolutionary acts, strengthen solidarity, and channel all our will and forces into the great cause of fighting and defeating the U.S. aggressors, liberating the south of our country, and successfully building socialism in the north, thus materializing the lofty aspiration cherished by President Ho Chi Minh—the building of a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, prosperous, and powerful Vietnam.

The name and spirit of the great President Ho Chi Minh will live forever in our hearts! His revolutionary cause will certainly be carried forward and completed victoriously.



## HAVANA ENDORSES URBAN TERRORIST TACTICS

The successes of urban terrorists in Latin America during the late 1960's prompted Cuba, long an advocate of rural-based guerrilla struggle, to endorse urban terrorism as a revolutionary strategy in 1970. This was done by publicizing in Havana's Tricontinental magazine a document revered in Latin American revolutionary circles, "The Minimanual of the Urban Guerrilla," by Carlos Marighella. The Tricontinental translation, provided by FBIS, was prefaced with the following editor's note:

The front and back covers of our issue number 16 are dedicated to the urban actions that are occurring in various Latin American countries—Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay, etc.—because of those who have said "enough!" to exploitation and have decided to forge a new destiny for our peoples. Outstanding in guerrilla warfare was Carlos Marighella, who was one of its strongest advocates, in theory and in practice. Months before he fell, struck down by the Brazilian dictatorship's bullet, Marighella left the summary of his rich combat experience in the Minimanual of the Urban Guerrilla. Conceived as an instrument of the armed struggle in the cities of Brazil, the Minimanual contains valuable lessons useful to any revolutionary. By publishing it in its entirety in "Starting Points," Tricontinental fulfills its mission of spreading to the fullest extent possible revolutionary ideas, strategy, and tactics. . . .

Among his writings, the Minimanual has special importance. The work examines exhaustively the conditions, characteristics, necessities, and methods of the guerrilla war and the urban guerrillas, broadly demonstrating his sense of detail and organization and his logical clarity. . . . For the experiences it turns over in its pages and for its detailed foresight, the Minimanual of the Urban Guerrilla will become one of the principal books of every man who, as a consequence of the inevitable battle against the bourgeoisie and imperialism, takes the road of armed rebellion.

Marighella's Minimanual is a detailed compendium of urban terrorist techniques targeted primarily against "the

government, big capitalists, and foreign imperialists, particularly North American." The 14 "action models" it lists include assault, hijacking, sabotage, ambushes, kidnapping, assassination, and general terrorism. In advocating execution and kidnapping as acceptable political tools, Marighella writes:

Execution is the killing of a North American spy, of an agent of the dictatorship, of a police torturer, of a fascist personality in the government involved in crimes and persecution against patriots, of a stool pigeon, informer, police agent, or police provocateur.

Those who go to the police of their own free will to make denunciations and accusations, who supply clues and information and put the finger on people, also must be executed when they are caught by the urban guerrilla.

Execution is a secret action in which the least possible number of urban guerrillas are involved. In many cases, the execution can be carried out by one sniper, patiently, alone and unknown, operating in absolute secrecy and in cold blood.

Kidnapping is capturing and holding in a secret spot a police agent, a North American spy, a political personality, or a notorious and dangerous enemy of the revolutionary movement. Kidnapping is used to exchange or liberate imprisoned revolutionary comrades, or to force suspension of torture in the jail cells of the military dictatorship.

The kidnapping of personalities who are known artists or sports figures or are outstanding in some other field but who have evidenced no political interest can be a useful form of propaganda for the revolutionary and patriotic principles of the urban guerrilla, provided it occurs under special circumstances and the kidnapping is handled so that the public sympathizes with it and accepts it.

The kidnapping of North American residents or visitors in Brazil constitutes a form of protest against the penetration and domination of United States imperialism in our country.



## CAMBODIAN ASSEMBLY DEPOSES SIHANOUK

On 18 March 1970, Prince Sihanouk was deposed as Cambodia's chief of state. The prince, who had been in France for medical treatment, was en route home at the time via Moscow and Peking. During Sihanouk's lengthy absence from the country, Cambodia's once cordial relations with the Viet Cong and DRV Government had become severely strained. The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese were ignoring a government request that they abandon their sanctuaries along the borders, and the National Assembly, sitting in almost continuous session, ostensibly to discuss domestic matters, had become a forum for nationalist sentiments.

On the morning of 18 March a special government communique broadcast over the Phnom Penh radio warned of the subversive activities of the "Vietnamese and their agents" and announced that the city's police chief had been removed from his post "to restore a peaceful atmosphere." The communique also advised that the government was taking other "effective countermeasures" to protect the country. Shortly afterward, news agencies reported that the Phnom Penh airport had been closed to traffic and that all cable communications had been cut. Phnom Penh radio, now the sole source of information on events in the country, late that afternoon broadcast the following government communique:

In view of the political crisis created in recent days by the chief of state, Prince Sihanouk, and in conformity with the constitution of Cambodia, the National Assembly and the Council of the Kingdom during a plenary session held on 18 March 1970 at 1300 have unanimously agreed to withdraw their confidence in Prince Norodom Sihanouk. As of 1300 18 March 1970, Prince Norodom Sihanouk shall cease his function as chief of state of Cambodia. Mr Cheng Heng, chairman of the National Assembly, is entrusted with the function of chief of state until the election of a true chief of state in conformity with the national constitution.

This was followed immediately by a special message from the new acting chief of state:

My dear and beloved compatriots: The National Assembly and Council of the Kingdom during a plenary session held on 18 March 1970 at 1300 unanimously agreed by [open] vote to withdraw their confidence in Prince Norodom Sihanouk as chief of state of Cambodia. In conformity with the constitution, as chairman of the National Assembly, I must assume the function of chief of state until a new chief of state is elected.

On this occasion, I solemnly proclaim that Cambodia will continue to follow the same policy—that is, one of independence, neutrality, and territorial integrity—and that Cambodia will continue to recognize and respect all treaties signed previously. Finally, I appeal to bonzes of the two sects—in particular, the two chief bonzes—to kindly call on officials, students, all youth, and all strata of the people to maintain order so that our fatherland may remain prosperous.

